

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

1. (currently amended) A method of image communications with E-mail, comprising the steps of:

receiving E-mail that ~~contains~~ includes image information and ~~includes~~ a request for a receipt acknowledgement, said E-mail being sent from a mail sender;

decoding said image information ~~contained~~ included in said E-mail;

creating a return mail for acknowledging a receipt of said electronic mail, wherein said return mail includes information indicating successful or unsuccessful transmission of said E-mail;

attaching a predetermined page of said image information to said return mail if the transmission of the E-mail is successful, and attaching the original E-mail in its entirety to the return mail if the transmission of the E-mail is unsuccessful; and

transmitting said return mail back to said mail sender as a response to said request.

2. (currently amended) A The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein said predetermined page is a first page of said image information ~~contained~~ included in said received E-mail.

3. (currently amended) A The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein said attaching step attaches said E-mail as it is to said return mail when said decoding step cannot decode

said image information.

4. (currently amended) A The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein said request included in said E-mail requests ~~an MDN~~ a message disposition notification, said receiving step receives said E-mail according to a POP3 or an IMAP4 procedure, and said transmitting step transmits said return mail according to an SMTP procedure.

5. (currently amended) A The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein said request included in said E-mail requests a ~~DSN~~ delivery status notification, said receiving step receives said E-mail according to an SMTP procedure, and said transmitting step transmits said return mail according to an SMTP procedure.

6. (currently amended) A The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising a step of embedding a page number of said predetermined page into a first part of said return mail.

7. (currently amended) A The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising a step of embedding a page number of said predetermined page into a second part of said return mail.

8. (currently amended) A The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein said predetermined page of said image information attached to said return mail corresponds to a designated page, a page number of a said designated page being designated by said request

included in said E-mail.

9. (currently amended) A The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein said predetermined page of said image information attached to said return mail corresponds to a designated page, a page number of a said designated page being designated by said mail sender through an SMTP procedure for said E-mail.

10. (currently amended) A method of image communications with E-mail, comprising the steps of:

transmitting E-mail to a mail recipient, said E-mail ~~containing~~ including image information and ~~including~~ a request for a receipt acknowledgement;

receiving a return mail from said mail recipient for acknowledging a receipt of said E-mail, wherein said return mail includes information indicating successful or unsuccessful transmission of said E-mail, and said return mail including a predetermined page of said image information ~~contained~~ included in said E-mail if the transmission of the E-mail is successful, or including the original E-mail in its entirety if the transmission of the E-mail is unsuccessful; and

outputting a status report indicating contents of said return mail and including an image of said predetermined page included in said image information.

11. (currently amended) A The method as defined in Claim 10, wherein said predetermined page is a first page of said image information ~~contained~~ included in said E-mail.

12. (currently amended) A The method as defined in Claim 10, wherein said return mail received by said receiving step includes said image information included in said E-mail without being decoded when said image information cannot be decoded by said mail recipient.

13. (currently amended) A The method as defined in Claim 10, wherein said request included in said E-mail requests ~~an MDN~~ a message disposition notification, said transmitting step transmits said E-mail according to an SMTP procedure, and said receiving step receives said return mail according to a POP3 or an IMAP4 procedure.

14. (currently amended) A The method as defined in Claim 10, wherein said request included in said E-mail requests a ~~DSN~~ delivery status notification, said transmitting step transmits said E-mail according to an SMTP procedure, and said receiving step receives said return mail according to an SMTP procedure.

15. (currently amended) A The method as defined in Claim 10, wherein a first part of said return mail received by said receiving step is embedded with a page number of said predetermined page attached to said return mail.

16. (currently amended) A The method as defined in Claim 10, wherein a second part of said return mail received by said receiving step is embedded with a page number of said predetermined page attached to said return mail.

17. (currently amended) A The method as defined in Claim 10, wherein said E-mail includes page information designating a page number of a page to be attached to said return mail, and said predetermined page of said image information attached to said return mail accordingly corresponds to said page information.

18. (currently amended) A The method as defined in Claim 10, further comprising a step for designating a page number of a page to be attached to said return mail through an SMTP procedure for said E-mail, wherein said predetermined page of said image information attached to said return mail accordingly corresponds to said page number of a the page designated by said designating step.

19. (currently amended) A data terminal coupled to at least a local area network, comprising:

a communications mechanism arranged and configured to receive E-mail that ~~contains~~ includes image information and ~~includes~~ a request for a receipt acknowledgement, said E-mail being sent from a mail sender through said local area network;

a decoder decoding said image information ~~contained~~ included in said E-mail; and

a controller arranged and configured to create a return mail for acknowledging a receipt of said electronic mail, to include information in said return mail indicating successful or unsuccessful transmission of said E-mail, to attach a predetermined page of said image information to said return mail if the transmission of the E-mail is successful, and attach the original E-mail in its entirety to the return mail if the transmission of the E-mail is

unsuccessful, and to cause said communications mechanism to transmit said return mail back to said mail sender as a response to said request.

20. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 19, wherein said predetermined page is a first page of said image information ~~contained~~ included in said received E-mail.

21. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 19, wherein said controller attaches said E-mail as it is to said return mail when said decoder cannot decode said image information.

22. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 19, wherein said request included in said E-mail requests ~~an MDN~~ a message disposition notification, said communications mechanism receives said E-mail according to a POP3 or an IMAP4 procedure, and said controller causes said communications mechanism to transmit said return mail according to an SMTP procedure.

23. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 19, wherein said request included in said E-mail requests a ~~DSN~~ delivery status notification, said communications mechanism receives said E-mail according to an SMTP procedure, and said controller causes said communications mechanism to transmit said return mail according to an SMTP procedure.

24. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 19, wherein said controller embeds a page number of said predetermined page into a first part of said return mail.

25. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 19, wherein said controller embeds a page number of said predetermined page into a second part of said return mail.

26. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 19, wherein said predetermined page of said image information attached to said return mail corresponds to a designated page, a page number of a said designated page being designated by said request included in said E-mail.

27. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 19, wherein said predetermined page of said image information attached to said return mail corresponds to a designated page, a page number of a said designated page being designated by said mail sender through an SMTP procedure for said E-mail.

28. (currently amended) A data terminal coupled to a local area network, comprising:
a communications mechanism arranged and configured to transmit E-mail to a mail recipient and to receive a return mail from said mail recipient for acknowledging a receipt of said E-mail, said E-mail ~~containing~~ including image information and ~~including~~ a request for a receipt acknowledgement, said return mail including information indicating successful or

unsuccessful transmission of said E-mail, and said return mail including a predetermined page of said image information ~~contained~~ included in said E-mail, if the transmission of the E-mail is successful, and including the original E-mail in its entirety if the transmission of the E-mail is unsuccessful;

an outputting mechanism arranged and configured to output information; and
a controller arranged and configured to create said E-mail, and to retrieve said predetermined page and to cause said outputting mechanism to output a status report indicating contents of said return mail and an image of said retrieved predetermined page when said communications mechanism receives said return mail.

29. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 28, wherein said predetermined page is a first page of said image information ~~contained~~ included in said E-mail.

30. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 28, wherein said return mail includes said image information included in said E-mail without being decoded when said image information cannot be decoded by said mail recipient.

31. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 28, wherein said request included in said E-mail requests ~~an MDN~~ a message disposition notification, and said communications mechanism transmits said E-mail according to an SMTP procedure and receives said return mail according to a POP3 or an IMAP4 procedure.

32. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 28, wherein said request included in said E-mail requests a ~~DSN~~ delivery status notification, and said communications mechanism transmits said E-mail according to an SMTP procedure and receives said return mail according to an SMTP procedure.

33. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 28, wherein a first part of said return mail received by said communications mechanism is embedded with a page number of said predetermined page attached to said return mail.

34. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 28, wherein a second part of said return mail received by said communications mechanism is embedded with a page number of said predetermined page attached to said return mail.

35. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 28, wherein said E-mail includes page information designating a page number of a page to be attached to said return mail, and said predetermined page of said image information attached to said return mail accordingly corresponds to said page information.

36. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 28, wherein when said controller creates said E-mail said controller designates a page number of a page to be attached to said return mail through an SMTP procedure for said E-mail, wherein said predetermined page of said image information attached to said return mail accordingly corresponds to said page number of a the page designated by said controller.

37. (currently amended) A data terminal coupled to at least a local area network, comprising:

communicating means for receiving E-mail that ~~contains~~ includes image information and ~~includes~~ a request for a receipt acknowledgement, said E-mail being sent from a mail sender through said local area network;

decoding means for decoding said image information ~~contained~~ included in said E-mail; and

controlling means for creating a return mail for acknowledging a receipt of said electronic mail, including information in said return mail indicating successful or unsuccessful transmission of said E-mail, attaching a predetermined page of said image information to said return mail if the transmission of the E-mail is successful, and attaching the original E-mail in its entirety to said return mail if the transmission of the E-mail is unsuccessful, and causing said communicating means to transmit said return mail back to said mail sender as a response to said request.

38. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 37, wherein said predetermined page is a first page of said image information ~~contained~~ included in said received E-mail.

39. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 37, wherein said controlling means attaches said E-mail as it is to said return mail when said decoding means cannot decode said image information.

40. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 37, wherein said request included in said E-mail requests ~~an MDN~~ a message disposition notification, said communicating means receives said E-mail according to a POP3 or an IMAP4 procedure, and said controlling means causes said communicating means to transmit said return mail according to an SMTP procedure.

41. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 37, wherein said request included in said E-mail requests a ~~DSN~~ delivery status notification, said communicating means receives said E-mail according to an SMTP procedure, and said controlling means causes said communicating means to transmit said return mail according to an SMTP procedure.

42. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 37, wherein said controlling means embeds a page number of said predetermined page into a first part of said return mail.

43. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 37, wherein said controlling means embeds a page number of said predetermined page into a second part of said return mail.

44. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 37, wherein said predetermined page of said image information attached to said return mail corresponds to a

designated page, a page number of a said designated page being designated by said request included in said E-mail.

45. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 37, wherein said predetermined page of said image information attached to said return mail corresponds to a designated page, a page number of a said designated page being designated by said mail sender through an SMTP procedure for said E-mail.

46. (currently amended) A data terminal coupled to a local area network, comprising:
communicating means for transmitting E-mail to a mail recipient and receiving a return mail from said mail recipient for acknowledging a receipt of said E-mail, said E-mail ~~containing~~ including image information and ~~including~~ a request for a receipt acknowledgement, and said return mail including information indicating successful or unsuccessful transmission of said E-mail, and including a predetermined page of said image information ~~contained~~ included in said E-mail, if the transmission of the E-mail is successful, and including the original E-mail in its entirety if the transmission of the E-mail is unsuccessful;

outputting means for outputting information; and

controlling means for creating said E-mail, and when said communicating means receives said return mail, said controlling means being arranged and configured to retrieve said predetermined page and to cause said outputting means to output a status report indicating contents of said return mail and an image of said retrieved predetermined page.

47. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 46, wherein said predetermined page is a first page of said image information ~~contained~~ included in said E-mail.

48. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 46, wherein said return mail includes said image information included in said E-mail without being decoded when said image information cannot be decoded by said mail recipient.

49. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 46, wherein said request included in said E-mail requests ~~an MDN~~ a message disposition notification, and said communicating means transmits said E-mail according to an SMTP procedure and receives said return mail according to a POP3 or an IMAP4 procedure.

50. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 46, wherein said request included in said E-mail requests a ~~DSN~~ delivery status notification, and said communicating means transmits said E-mail according to an SMTP procedure and receives said return mail according to an SMTP procedure.

51. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 46, wherein a first part of said return mail received by said communicating means is embedded with a page number of said predetermined page attached to said return mail.

52. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 46, wherein a

second part of said return mail received by said communicating means is embedded with a page number of said predetermined page attached to said return mail.

53. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 46, wherein said E-mail includes page information designating a page number of a page to be attached to said return mail, and said predetermined page of said image information attached to said return mail accordingly corresponds to said page information.

54. (currently amended) A The data terminal as defined in Claim 46, wherein when said controlling means creates said E-mail said controlling means designates a page number of a page to be attached to said return mail through an SMTP procedure for said E-mail, wherein said predetermined page of said image information attached to said return mail accordingly corresponds to said page number of a the page designated by said controlling means.

55. (currently amended) An e-mail system comprising:
a sending facility coupled with a communications network to which a number of receiving facilities are also coupled;
said sending facility being configured to assemble an e-mail message that ~~contains~~ includes non-image information including a request for an acknowledgment, and image information, and to transmit the assembled e-mail message to a selected one of said receiving facilities;

said sending facility being further configured to receive a response e-mail message

from said selected receiving facility, said response e-mail message ~~containing~~ including both non-image information and image information ~~corresponding to at least at part of the image information sent to the receiving facility from the sending facility,~~ said response e-mail message including information indicating successful or unsuccessful transmission of said original e-mail, and including a predetermined page of said image information included in said original e-mail, if the transmission of the original e-mail is successful, and including the original e-mail in its entirety if the transmission of the original e-mail is unsuccessful; and

an output system coupled to said sending facility and responsive to said response e-mail message to automatically assemble and provide a visual output of a status report related to said response e-mail message, said visual output corresponding to at least a part of the image information included in the response e-mail message.

56. (currently amended) An e-mail system comprising:

a receiving facility coupled with a communications network to which a sending facility is also coupled;

said receiving facility being configured to receive an incoming e-mail message over said network from said sending facility, said received e-mail message ~~containing~~ including a request for an acknowledgment and both non-image information and image information;

said receiving facility being further configured to automatically assemble a response e-mail message that ~~contains~~ includes both non-image information and image information ~~corresponding to at least a selected part of the image information included in the received e-mail message,~~ said response e-mail message including information indicating successful or unsuccessful transmission of said received e-mail message, and including a predetermined

page of said image information included in said received e-mail message, if the transmission of the received e-mail message is successful, and including the received e-mail message in its entirety if the transmission of the received e-mail message is unsuccessful; and

an output system coupled to said receiving facility and configured to automatically send said response e-mail message to said sending facility over said network.

57. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The e-mail system as in claim 56 in which said receiving facility includes a decoding system configured to decode said image information included in the incoming message and to include in said response e-mail message only image information corresponding to a selected page of the image information.

58. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The e-mail system as in claim 56 in which said receiving facility includes a decoding system configured to attempt to decode said image information included in said incoming message and, in case of a failure to decode, to include in said response e-mail image information corresponding to all of the image information received at said receiving facility.

59. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the return mail includes (a) a comment part indicating a page number of the predetermined page attached to said return mail, and (b) an additional part including the attachment of the original E-mail in its entirety.

60. (new) The method of claim 59, wherein said predetermined page is a first page of said received E-mail.

61. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein the return mail includes (a) a comment part indicating a page number of the predetermined page attached to said return mail, and (b) an additional part including the attachment of the original E-mail in its entirety.

62. (new) The method of claim 61, wherein said predetermined page is a first page of said E-mail.

63. (new) The data terminal of claim 19, wherein the return mail includes (a) a comment part indicating a page number of the predetermined page attached to said return mail, and (b) an additional part including the attachment of the original E-mail in its entirety.

64. (new) The data terminal of claim 63, wherein said predetermined page is a first page of said E-mail.

65. (new) The data terminal of claim 28, wherein the return mail includes (a) a comment part indicating a page number of the predetermined page attached to said return mail, and (b) an additional part including the attachment of the original E-mail in its entirety.

66. (new) The data terminal of claim 65, wherein said predetermined page is a first page of said E-mail.

67. (new) The data terminal of claim 37, wherein the return mail includes (a) a comment

part indicating a page number of the predetermined page attached to said return mail, and (b) an additional part including the attachment of the original E-mail in its entirety.

68. (new) The data terminal of claim 67, wherein said predetermined page is a first page of said E-mail.

69. (new) The data terminal of claim 46, wherein the return mail includes (a) a comment part indicating a page number of the predetermined page attached to said return mail, and (b) an additional part including the attachment of the original E-mail in its entirety.

70. (new) The data terminal of claim 69, wherein said predetermined page is a first page of said E-mail.

71. (new) The e-mail system of claim 55, wherein the response e-mail message includes (a) a comment part indicating a page number of the predetermined page attached to said return mail, and (b) an additional part including the attachment of the original E-mail in its entirety.

72. (new) The data terminal of claim 71, wherein said predetermined page is a first page of said E-mail.

73. (new) The e-mail system of claim 56, wherein the response e-mail message includes (a) a comment part indicating a page number of the predetermined page attached to said return mail, and (b) an additional part including the attachment of the original E-mail in its entirety.

74. (new) The data terminal of claim 73, wherein said predetermined page is a first page of said E-mail.